

HO-834

George and Lorraine Walther House
4357 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City
Howard County, Maryland

The George and Lorraine Walther House is located at 4357 Montgomery Road, about 1 1/4 miles southwest of Ellicott City in northeastern Howard County, Maryland.

The house faces southwest toward the road, and is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a parged foundation, asbestos shingle siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northwest-southeast ridge. The basement has a CMU foundation and a concrete floor. There are steel I-beams on posts that support the partition walls. The first story has a center stair hall with one room to the northwest and two to the southeast. The second story has a center passage with a bathroom at the northeast end, two chambers to the southeast, one chamber to the northwest, and the same flooring and baseboard as the first story.

In December, 1936 Benjamin Mellor, Jr. and Charles E. Miller purchased 42 acres of land on the northeast side of Montgomery Road and created a small suburban development they called "Mont Ridge." The subdivision was platted out within two years and restrictions were put in place to control the development. The developers sold 12 lots to Emit Hardman in August, 1939, and the same day he apparently sold lots nine and ten to George Walther, Jr., and his wife Lorraine. Hardman was probably a builder, and likely had an arrangement with Mellor and Miller that enabled him to begin building on these lots without having to purchase them. When the Walthers bought their lots, the house was also likely already standing, and they had probably arranged for Hardman to construct it specifically for them. The house they chose was a standard center-passage Colonial Revival house popular throughout American suburbs. The Walthers heirs sold the house in 2003, and it apparently became a rental property for a short time. The house was scheduled to be demolished in late 2006 as part of the construction of a new school behind the property.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-834

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic George & Lorraine Walther House

other _____

2. Location

street and number 4357 Montgomery Road _____ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City X vicinity

county Howard

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James C. Pippen

street and number 4357 Montgomery Road telephone _____

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21043

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 24-328

city, town Ellicott City liber 7449 folio 579

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<u>Demolished 2007</u>	<u>0</u>	

**Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory**

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-834

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The George and Lorraine Walther House is located at 4357 Montgomery Road, about 1 1/4 miles southwest of Ellicott City in northeastern Howard County, Maryland.

House-Exterior

The house faces southwest toward the road, and is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a parged foundation, asbestos shingle siding, a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northwest-southeast ridge, and an exterior brick chimney on the northwest.

On the southwest elevation, the first story has a door in the center bay that is boarded over, and there are four brick steps and two wood Doric columns with a plain frieze, a box cornice, and a pedimented gable end creating a small porch over the doorway. The gable ridge runs northeast-southwest on the porch. There is a single eight-over-eight sash on either side of the doorway with head-cut trim. There is one three-light sash in the basement in each end bay. The second story has a six-over-six sash in the center with an eight-over-eight sash to each side, all with head-cut trim. There is a box cornice.

The northwest elevation has a brick chimney in the center; the foundation has a three-light sash in the north, and a concrete porch with a brick edge to it in the center and the west bays. The first story has a six-over-six sash to the north and a boarded up door to the west. The porch has two Doric columns and a wood box cornice. It has beaded edge-and-center board soffit with a natural finish. The second story has two six-over-six sash.

On the northeast elevation, the two east bays project and have a gable with a northeast-southwest ridge. The foundation has a three-light sash in the east and center bays, and a cellar door that has four lights over two panels in the north bay. There are concrete steps down to the cellar door. The north bay also contains a three-light sash to the north of the door. The first-story east bay has paired six-over-six sash; the center bay has a single six-over-six sash, and the north bay has an eight-over-eight sash. The second story has three six-over-six sash, and the gable end has a small six-over-six sash. All of these windows on the first and second stories have head-cut trim.

On the southeast elevation, the foundation has a three-light sash to the south, and a concrete porch with three steps up, to the east. The first story has paired six-over-six sash with typical trim in the south bay, and a boarded-up door in the east bay. This bay is in the rear ell, and has a porch with two square posts and a shed roof. The second story has a six-over-six sash in the center, a six-over-six sash in the ell, and a small six-over-six sash in the gable end, all with typical trim.

House-Interior

The basement has a CMU foundation and a concrete floor. There are steel I-beams on posts that support the partition walls. The joists run southeast-northwest and are dimensional 2 by 8s with bridging fastened with wire nails. There is diagonal sub-flooring laid over the joists.

The first story has a center stair hall with one room to the northwest and two to the southeast. There is 2 1/4-inch oak flooring that runs northeast-southwest throughout the first story, and quirked-ogee-and-bevel baseboard. The stair hall has a straight run of stairs on the northwest wall, with the top half of the stairway enclosed. It has a turned pine newel post, painted round balusters, a plain open stringer, and a modern pine handrail on the bottom half of the stairs. There is a closet to the southeast of the stairs, and it is missing its door. The architrave is pulvinated and reeded, and this is typical for this house. There are doorway openings to the southeast and northwest that are semi-circular arched, and never had a door. The front door is boarded over.

The northwest room has a fireplace centered on the northwest elevation. It has a quarry tile hearth, a firebox of firebrick, and a brick surround. There is a wood mantel with a crossetted architrave, a pulvinated frieze and a dentil cornice. To the west of the

**Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**Name George & Lorraine Walther House
Continuation Sheet

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fireplace is a door with 15 lights, and it is hung on butt hinges with pins. The sash are hung on cords, and all of the openings have typical architrave. The south room also has typical sash and architrave. It has a wide opening on the northeast elevation containing a pass-through with a counter, and a doorway to the north of it. The door is missing, but has typical architrave. The east room is a modern kitchen with linoleum on the floor, typical sash and architrave, and a door on the southeast that has four lights over two lying panels, butt hinges with pins, and typical architrave. The northeast-center room is located behind the stairway and has typical sash and architrave. There is a closet on the southwest elevation, set to the south, and stairs to the cellar on the southwest, set to the west. The doors for both of these openings are missing.

The second story has a center passage with a bathroom at the northeast end, two chambers to the southeast, one chamber to the northwest, and the same flooring and baseboard as the first story. The passage stairs have square newel posts, and the balusters and handrail match the first story. The southwest end of the passage has a segmental arch at the ceiling that divides it off to create a small sitting room. The passage has typical sash and architrave, but the doors are now missing. There is a small linen closet on the southeast, between the doors to the two southeast chambers. The northeast-center room has white and black tile in a basket-weave pattern on the floor, white tile on the walls with a black base and black top course, a pedestal sink with metal legs and towel bar, and a new water closet. The window architrave has an ogee on the inner edge and a fillet backband. The northwest chamber has a closet on each side of the southwest wall flanking a window, with a segmental arch between the closets creating an inglenook. It has typical architrave and sash. The east chamber has a closet on the southeast, set south of center. It has typical architrave and sash, and the doors are missing. The south chamber has a closet on the northeast, set to the east. It also has typical architrave and sash, and the doors have been removed.

There is a pull-down stair to the attic, and this space is unfinished and has no flooring. The attic has dimensional 2 by 6 joists and rafters with wire nails, and there is a ridge beam at the peak.

Garage

A garage is located about 25 feet north of the house. It is a one-story, two-bay by two-bay structure with a CMU foundation, weatherboard siding on frame walls, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles, a northwest-southeast ridge and exposed rafter ends. The southeast elevation has a wide opening for double garage doors. The southwest elevation has a nine-light sash to the west, and an eight-light sash with infill to the south. The northwest elevation has a brick chimney in the center, and the northeast elevation has no openings. The interior of the garage has a concrete floor and is built with dimensional 2 by 4 studs, and 2 by 6 rafters with a ridge beam. The walls have racked and there are new studs added to stabilize them. There is a concrete barbecue pit on the northwest, in the center of this wall, with a brick chimney.

There is a square brick well with a concrete cap next to the cellar steps, and flagstone walks around the house. Both the house and garage are scheduled for demolition as part of the construction of a new school to the rear of the property.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-834

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	n/a	Architect/Builder	n/a
Construction dates	c. 1939		

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

In December, 1936 Benjamin Mellor, Jr. and Charles E. Miller purchased 42 acres of land on the northeast side of Montgomery Road and created a small suburban development they called "Mont Ridge." The neighborhood was to have a street perpendicular to Montgomery Road, known as Howard Road, and this would give access to a street parallel to Montgomery, called Carroll Road. Nine lots faced onto Montgomery, with nine lots each on the north and south sides of Carroll Road. The subdivision was platted out within two years and restrictions were put in place to control the development. These insured that the neighborhood would only be residential, and required that houses along Montgomery Road cost at least \$5,000 and those on Carroll Road cost at least \$4,000. There were set-back requirements and restrictions against outbuildings other than garages for the use of the occupants, including a prohibition on privies. There was also a restriction placed on African-American ownership or residence, unless they were "employed as domestics thereon." (1)

At this time nothing is known of Mellor or Miller, but they must have sensed the Depression was easing and eventually there would be a growing market for new homes. They were not the only small developers operating in Howard County during the Depression, either. The "Columbia Woodlands" development had been launched by 1934, though it was slow to develop. Development was probably slowed, too, by World War II, and the subdivision never seems to have taken off; certainly, Carroll Road was never built, nor were any houses that would have faced onto it. The restrictions placed on the "Mont Ridge" development were typical for Howard County in the 1930s. (2)

The developers sold 12 lots to Emit Hardman in August, 1939, and the same day he apparently sold lots nine and ten to George Walther, Jr., and his wife Lorraine. Hardman was probably a builder, and likely had an arrangement with Mellor and Miller that enabled him to begin building on these lots without having to purchase them. When the Walthers bought their lots, the house was also likely already standing, and they had probably arranged for Hardman to construct it specifically for them. Thus, this was probably not a spec house. The house they chose was a standard center-passage Colonial Revival house popular throughout American suburbs, with some simple Colonial Revival details inside, especially in the living room mantel. (3)

The Walthers continued to live in the house up to their deaths, Lorraine Walther having died in 2002. Her heirs sold the house in 2003, and it apparently became a rental property for a short time. The house was scheduled to be demolished in late 2006 as part of the construction of a new school behind the property.

Notes:

(1). Plat HSK 1-90. Howard County Land Records, BM, Jr., 155-543; 164-259.

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(2). Norman and Edith Choyce House, HO-910.

(3). Howard County Land Records, BM, Jr., 164-252.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-834

Footnotes.
See ~~continuation sheet~~

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.54 A

Acreage of historical setting 1.54 A

Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is the property lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ken Short

organization Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

date 7/23/2007

street and number 3430 Courthouse Drive

telephone 410-313-4335

city or town Ellicott City

state MD zip code 21043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

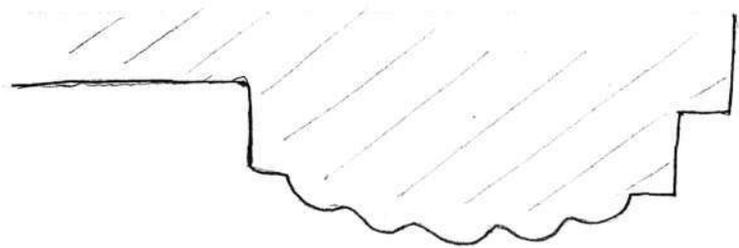
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

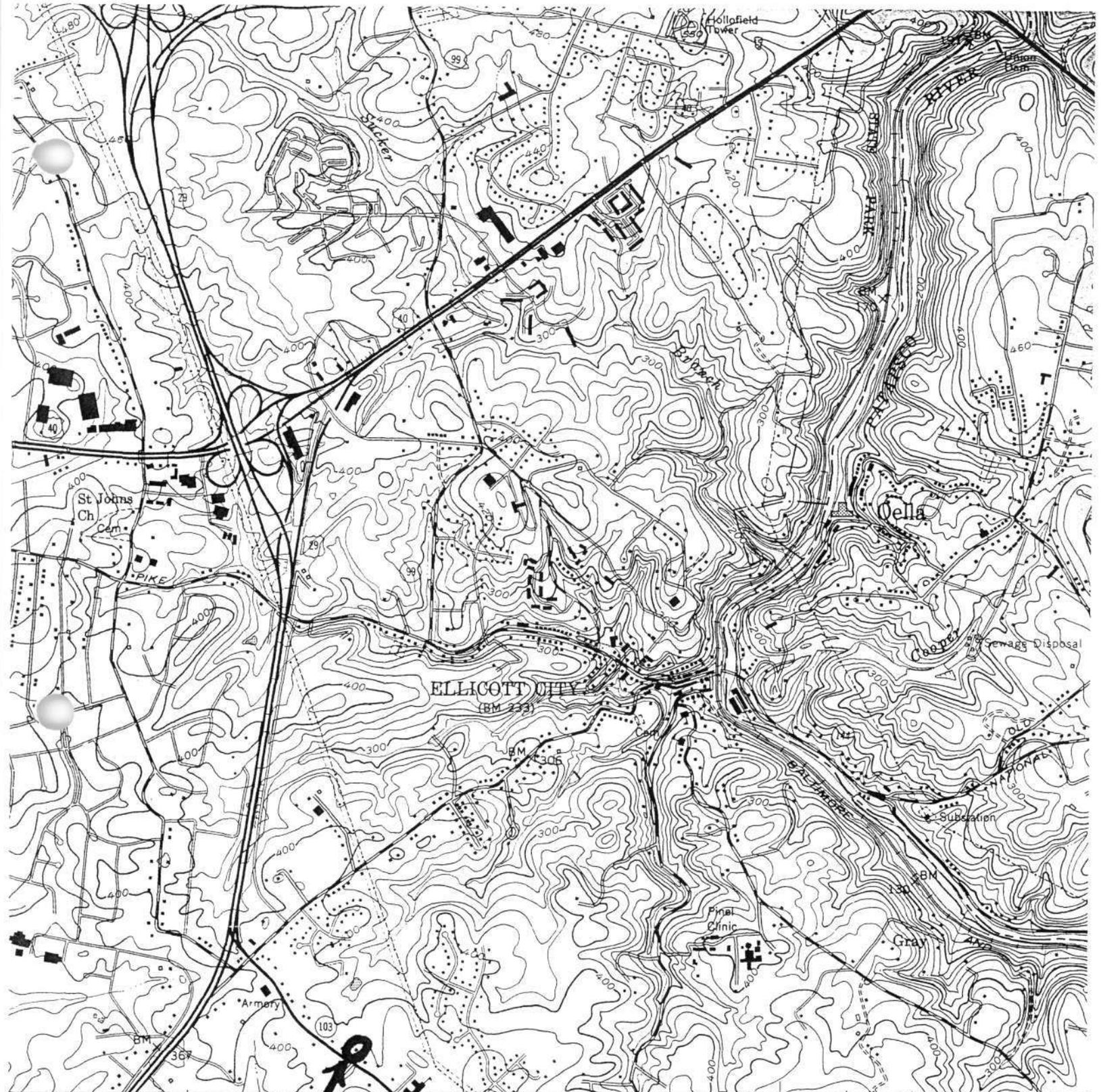
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

1/1 4357 Montgomery Rd HO-834
Moulding Profiles

KMS
9 Oct '06

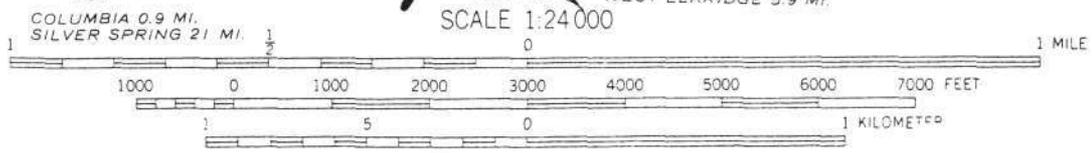
Architrave





(SAVAGE) 1.3 MI. TO MD. 175
5662 III NE WEST ELKCRIDGE 5.9 MI.

SCALE 1:24 000



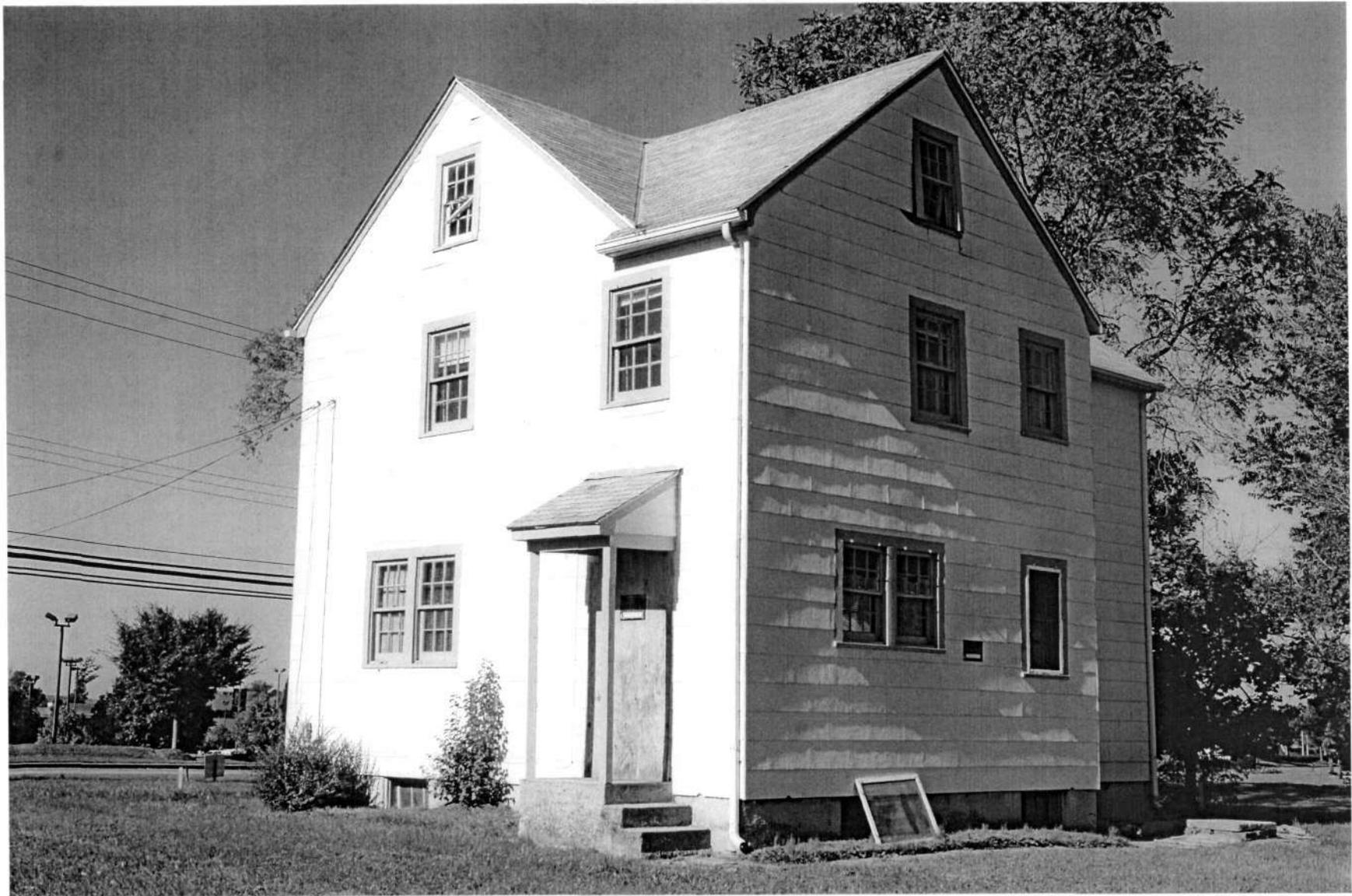
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

HO-834
George & Lorraine Walther House
4357 Montgomery Road
Ellicott City Quad

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



HO-834 George & Lorraine Walther House 4357 Montgomery Road Southwest elevation
Ken Short, October 2006 1/9



HO-834 George & Lorraine Walther House 4357 Montgomery Road Southeast & northeast elevations
Ken Short, October 2006 2/9



HO-834 George & Lorraine Walther House 4357 Montgomery Road Northeast & northwest elevations
Ken Short, October 2006 3/9



HO-834 George & Lorraine Walther House 4357 Montgomery Road Center stair
Ken Short, October 2006 4/9



HO-834 George & Lorraine Walther House 4357 Montgomery Road Northwest room, northwest elevation
Ken Short, October 2006 5/9



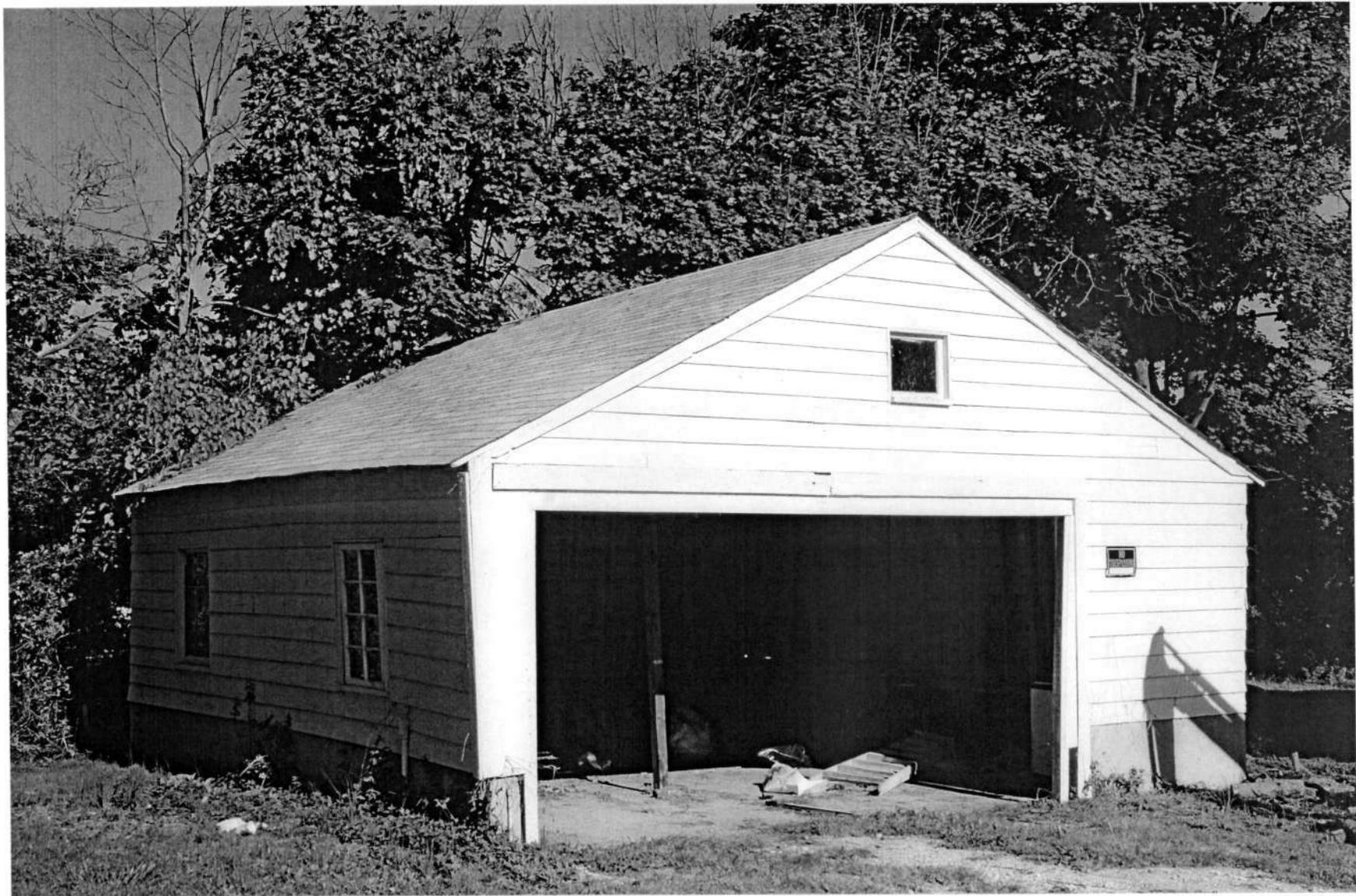
HO-834 George & Lorraine Walther House 4357 Montgomery Road Second story center passage, vw. south
Ken Short, October 2006 6/9



HO-834 George & Lorraine Walther House 4357 Montgomery Road Bathroom
Ken Short, October 2006 7/9



HO-834 George & Lorraine Walther House 4357 Montgomery Road Northwest chamber, vw. southwest
Ken Short, October 2006 8/9



HO-834 George & Lorraine Walther House 4357 Montgomery Road Garage, Southwest & southeast elevations
Ken Short, October 2006 9/9

HO-834_20061009_01
George & Lorraine
Walther House
4357 Montgomery Road
Howard County, MD
Southwest elevation
Ken Short
October 2006
1/9

HO-834_20061009_05
George & Lorraine
Walther House
4357 Montgomery Road
Howard County, MD
Northwest room,
northwest elevation
Ken Short
October 2006
5/9

HO-834_20061009_09
George & Lorraine
Walther House
4357 Montgomery Road
Howard County, MD
Garage, Southwest &
southeast elevations
Ken Short
October 2006
9/9

HO-834_20061009_02
George & Lorraine
Walther House
4357 Montgomery Road
Howard County, MD
Southeast & northeast
elevations
Ken Short
October 2006
2/9

HO-834_20061009_06
George & Lorraine
Walther House
4357 Montgomery Road
Howard County, MD
Second story center
passage, vw. south
Ken Short
October 2006
6/9

HO-834_20061009_03
George & Lorraine
Walther House
4357 Montgomery Road
Howard County, MD
Northeast & northwest
elevations
Ken Short
October 2006
3/9

HO-834_20061009_07
George & Lorraine
Walther House
4357 Montgomery Road
Howard County, MD
Bathroom
Ken Short
October 2006
7/9

HO-834_20061009_04
George & Lorraine
Walther House
4357 Montgomery Road
Howard County, MD
Center stair
Ken Short
October 2006
4/9

HO-834_20061009_08
George & Lorraine
Walther House
4357 Montgomery Road
Howard County, MD
Northwest chamber, vw.
southwest
Ken Short
October 2006
8/9